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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

COUNTRY

REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC

Military Information from Cottbus

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

27 November 1953

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 29 October 1953, about 300 men wearing artillery insignia quartered in the Alvensleben Kaserne in Cottbus had interior duty and indoctrination. On 24 October, [redacted] 4 light field guns, about 40 vehicles and soldiers working on the construction of vehicle storage sheds. [redacted]

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2. On 29 October, 1,700 to 1,800 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia were quartered in the Hermann Joens Kaserne. Soldiers trained at the target range and with tanks including T-34/85 tanks [redacted] in the terrain, and practiced firing with light AA guns at the target range. Another 200 men received infantry basic training on the other side of the autobahn. Motor vehicles entering and leaving the installation [redacted]

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3. On 29 October, about 2,000 men wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets with artillery and tank insignia were quartered in the Sachsendorf Kaserne. Soldiers observed in the terrain received instruction on map-reading and similar subjects. The unit furnished guards for the ammunition and ration supply depot. Motor vehicles observed entering and leaving the installation [redacted]

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4. On 29 October, 1,300 to 1,500 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia were quartered in the Dissenchen Kaserne. Source noted three guns at the target range and 12 guns of about 100 mm in the sheds.

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5. On 25 October, a train with 13 factory-new [redacted] tank trucks and 1 T-34/85 tank, passed through Cottbus toward Peitz. At about 1:45 p.m. on 25 October, a train of 50 cars with enlisted men was seen passing through Cottbus in the same direction.

25X1

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25X1



- 2 -

6. On 30 October, the Alvensleben Kaserne was occupied ~~to~~ about 30 percent of its capacity. From 19 to 30 October, about 40 men were observed almost daily receiving training with six AT guns and two howitzers on the training ground west of the installation.
7. On 26 October, about 30 men, equipped with two trucks and one jeep, were ~~doing~~ spadework and training with mortars and machine guns near the Dissenchen Kaserne. No activities in the barracks area were observed between 19 and 30 October. The quartering buildings were unlighted at night.
8. On 25 October, a train of 52 boxcars and 1 passenger car occupied by enlisted men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, arrived at Cottbus from the direction of Frankfurt/Oder.

25X1   Comment. It is believed that the majority of the units of the 9th  
 25X1 Meez Div stationed at Cottbus returned to the post by mid-October.  
 25X1 Elements of the 692d How Arty Regt from the Alvensleben Kaserne and the  
 25X1 71st Meez Regt from the Dissenchen Kaserne presumably were still in Weisswasser  
 25X1 for record firing   The statements  
 25X1   on the Dissenchen Kaserne disagree with    
 25X1   the number of troops quartered in the installation  
 25X1 and seem incredible with regard to the guns   the  
 25X1 tanks observed in the Hermann Loens Kaserne belong to the 100th Mtrcl Bn  
 which is one of the units stationed at this installation.

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